

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 26-29 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling comprising:  
a threaded male portion; and  
a corresponding threaded female portion,  
the threaded portions featuring thread profiles configured such that the coupling may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further.
2. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein each thread portion comprises first and second parts having different thread profiles.
3. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male portion has a leading part with a thread profile corresponding to ~~the~~ a thread profile of a trailing part of the female portion.
4. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male portion has a trailing part with a thread profile corresponding to ~~the~~ a thread profile of a leading part of the female portion.
5. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the thread profiles are configured such that the thread portions may be made up until the start of the thread profile on the trailing part of the male portion encounters the start of the different thread profile on the trailing part of the female portion.
6. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein the change in thread profiles between the ~~first and second parts~~ leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is abrupt.

7. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein the change in thread profiles between the ~~first and second parts~~ leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is gradual.

8. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim ~~[[4]]~~ 5, wherein the change in thread profiles between the ~~first and second parts~~ leading part of the female portion and the trailing part of the female portion is incremental.

9. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are a combination of a square thread profile and a dovetail thread profile.

10. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on a leading part of the male portion and the dovetail profile is provided on a trailing part of the male portion.

11. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on a trailing part of the female portion and the dovetail profile is provided on a leading part of the female portion.

12. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ a square profile on ~~the~~ a leading part of the male portion is adapted to mate with the dovetail profile on the leading part of the female portion.

13. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ a dovetail profile on ~~the~~ a trailing part of the male portion is configured so as not to mate with the square profile on the trailing part of the female portion.

14. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are a combination of similar form but differently dimensioned thread profiles.

15. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thread profiles are square thread profiles.

16. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thread profiles are dovetail profiles.

17. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein a smaller thread profile is provided on ~~the~~ a leading part of the male portion and is adapted to mate with a similarly dimensioned thread profile provided on ~~the~~ a trailing part of the female portion.

18. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein a larger dimensioned thread profile is provided on a trailing part of the male portion and a leading part[[s]] of the ~~male and female portion~~[[s]] ~~respectively~~, which larger dimensioned thread profiles are engageable with each other but are not engageable with smaller thread profiles provided on ~~the~~ a leading part of the male portion and a trailing part[[s]] of the ~~male and female portion~~[[s]], respectively.

19. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ a interface transition between the different dimensioned thread profiles is abrupt.

20. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ a interface transition between the different dimensioned thread profiles is gradual.

21. (Currently amended) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ a interface transition between the different dimensioned thread profiles is incremental.

22. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are parallel.

23. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are tapered.

24. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are left hand.

25. (Original) An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are right hand.

26-29. (Canceled)

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2. In Figure 2, the label identifying the blowup section shown in Figure 3 has been more clearly designated "Fig. 3."

**Attachment:        Replacement Sheet**  
**Annotated Sheet Showing Changes**